

MERLION STAR

Serving the Sembawang Community

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- ✦ POW/MIA Duathlon, Sep. 19
- ✦ Navy Ball, Oct. 10
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Navy Region Singapore Remembers 9/11



Rear Adm. Charlie Williams, Commander, Logistics Group Western Pacific, addresses more than 250 guests during a ceremony to mark the 14th anniversary of the terrorist attacks on Sept. 11, 2001. U.S. Navy photo by MC1 Jay C. Pugh.

Story by MC1 Jay C. Pugh

More than 250 U.S. Navy Sailors, their families, civilians and members of the Royal Australian Navy along with citizens of the Republic of Singapore, gathered at Navy Region Center Singapore's national ensign to honor and remember those who lost their lives during the terrorist attacks on Sept. 11, 2001.

Rear Adm. Charles Williams, commander, Logistics Group Western Pacific (COMLOG WESTPAC), and Capt. Scott Murdock, commanding officer, Navy Region Center Singapore (NRCS) spoke of the significance of the attacks. Williams highlighted the

impact that the Sept. 11th attacks made not only on the lives lost and their families, but also for those around the world who continue to strive and prevent future terrorist attacks.

"My message to you today is that moments matter," Williams said. "The moments that occurred on Sept. 11, 2001, changed the lives of all the survivors and all the families of those who were lost. Since 9/11, every country in the free world has been working to try and prevent that day from ever happening again."

Murdock made a call to action that reemphasized William's point

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Merlion Star

**Commander,
Logistics Group Western Pacific**
Rear Adm. Charlie Williams

Chief of Staff
Capt. Randall Martin

Public Affairs Officer
Lt. Cmdr. Arlo Abrahamson

Assistant Public Affairs Officer
Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class
Jay C. Pugh

Public Affairs Specialist
Marc Ayalin

**Commanding Officer,
Navy Region Center Singapore**
Capt. Scott Murdock

**Commander,
Military Sealift Command Far East**
Capt. Paul Harvey

**Commander,
Destroyer Squadron 7**
Capt. H. B. Le

**Commander,
497th Combat Training Squadron**
Maj. Dixon Croft

**Commander,
Defense Contract Management Agency**
Col. Anna Morris

**Commander,
United States Air Force, 730th AMS/Det 2**
Capt. Paul Arkwell

**Site Director,
Fleet Logistics Center Site Singapore**
Cmdr. Ronald Terry

**Supervisor,
United States Coast Guard, Singapore**
Lt. Cmdr. Mark Neeland

**Special Agent in Charge,
U.S. Naval Criminal Investigative
Service, Singapore Field Office**
Mr. Greg Ford

**Director,
NCTSFE Detachment Singapore**
Mr. Dan Bryan

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Support National Preparedness During America's PrepareAthon!

From Navy Region Singapore

Every year across the U.S., the month of September is designated as National Preparedness Month (NPM), and this year is no exception. This year marks the very first time in Navy Region Center Singapore history when our community and local commands will have the opportunity to participate in and benefit from National Preparedness Month events.

Like prior National Preparedness Month observances, stateside government agencies, schools, hospitals, and, most particularly, many Department of Defense Installations worldwide will conduct various events and awareness efforts to highlight the value of preparedness throughout the month. Local NPM awareness efforts will be aimed specifically at increasing both individual and organizational emergency preparedness, and will consist of events such as local hazard presentations and emergency preparedness information announcements tailored specifically in mind for our community at large here in Singapore.

Specific events are still being planned and coordinated for the duration of the month. Each week will be dedicated to education and enhanced preparedness measures for local hazards or threats inherent to Singapore, but that also might have applicability to those of us who often perform travel to other areas beyond Singapore where the same hazard is present.

This year's campaign will be based on hazard-specific theme weeks with the first week of Aug. 31 to Sept. 4 dedicated toward broadening outreach of local Flood and other low probability

natural hazards.

The campaign theme for the week of Sept. 7 will focus on "Combatting Terrorism Preparedness and Protection" aligned with the Sept. 11 remembrance. Several key preparedness events will be offered during the Combatting Terrorism theme week. The hazard of Pandemic Influenza (PI) to include a planned Singapore National Environment Agency presentation on Dengue Fever and a separate presentation from our own Naval Medical Research Center Asia will be a few of the major PI themed events for the week of Sept. 14.

The week of Sept. 21 will be devoted to the theme of local severe thunderstorm, lightning, and tornado hazards.

The final three days of NPM will culminate with fire preparedness and prevention outreach Sept. 28.

Please stay tuned to our AFN local community channel and official emails via OneNet for further detail on the upcoming National Preparedness Month events and weekly web-based emergency preparedness training opportunities.

For more information on emergency preparedness and to find out about the Navy's Emergency Preparedness Program, visit the Ready Navy website at www.ReadyNavy.mil.

You can also contact Ready Navy by e-mail at ready.navy@navy.mil or call (202)433-9348, DSN 288-9348. Follow Ready Navy on Facebook (www.facebook.com/ReadyNavy), Twitter (@ReadyNavy), and Instagram.

DON'T WAIT. COMMUNICATE.
MAKE YOUR EMERGENCY PLAN TODAY.



SEPTEMBER IS NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH!

MISSILEX, COMRELS and Band Performances Highlight Successful CARAT Thailand

Story by Lt. Kevin Chambers,
DESRON 7 Public Affairs

The 21st annual Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training (CARAT) exercise between the U.S. Navy, U.S. Marine Corps, and the Royal Thai Armed Forces came to a close Sept. 2 on Sattahip Naval Base.

CARAT Thailand 2015 consisted of eight days of shore-based and at-sea training events, through Sept. 2, designed to address shared maritime security concerns, build relationships, and enhance interoperability among participating forces.

"Each year that we participate in CARAT with the Royal Thai Armed Forces, our relationship grows stronger," said Capt. H.B. Le, commodore, Destroyer Squadron 7. "Our armed forces share the same commitment to maintaining security and stability in the region, and continuing to execute military exercises during realistic training scenarios ensures that we will be ready to operate together during times of crisis."



Capt. H.B. Le, commodore of Destroyer Squadron (DESRON) 7, shakes hands with Royal Thai Navy sailors at the opening ceremony of CARAT Thailand 2015. In its 21st year, CARAT is an annual, bi-lateral exercise series with the U.S. Navy, U.S. Marine Corps and the armed forces of nine partner nations U.S. Navy photo MC2 Chelsy Alamina.

The capstone of the sea-phase portion of CARAT 2015 was the successful first-of-class firing of an Evolved Sea Sparrow Missile (ESSM) from the HTMS Naresuan, achieving a direct hit on the BQM-74E drone missile launched from the amphibious dock landing

ship USS Germantown (LSD 42).

While military engagements are a major part of every CARAT, Capt. Le stressed the importance of community engagements and the impact they have on the host nation.

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9/11, Cont. from Page 1

that the effects of 9/11 continue to impact the rest of the world and that remaining vigilant and committed is everyone's continued mission.

"We must honor them by embracing each day and celebrating our lives and the lives of our families and friends. Secondly, honor them by getting the job done," Murdock said. "Each one of us here is part of a mission. Whether it is patrolling the waters of the seas that surround us, ensuring the ships at sea have the fuel and supplies to complete

their mission or getting the kids out the door and off to school in the morning, everyone contributes to a mission."

During the ceremony, NRCS staff members paid tribute to the fallen by lowering the American flag to half-mast while a vocal performance of Taps was sung by Kathy Vail, Family Service Office Director for NRCS. Following Taps, ceremony participants recited the Pledge of Allegiance as a reaffirmation of commitment to the U.S. flag and nation. Lastly, a performance of the National Anthem was sung by a group of Sailors and civilian participants

that culminated the morning event.

Chief Legalman (select) James Goza, who lowered the American flag to half-mast, drew tears as he recalled what Sept. 11th meant to him.

"It's an honor to be a part of this," Goza said. "It was one of the reasons I joined the military so it holds a close spot in my heart. Again, it's just a great honor."

While no U.S. base exists in Singapore, the U.S. Navy has leased facilities from the Singaporean government for several decades, and many U.S. ships, aircraft and personnel visit Singapore each year.

Uniform Update NAVADMIN 208/15 Released

From Chief of Naval Personnel Public Affairs

The Chief of Naval Personnel released a uniform policy update in NAVADMIN 208/15 Sept. 1, providing details of upcoming uniform releases and the end of wear date for some little worn uniform components.

Below are the key uniform NAVADMIN policy changes, which will go into effect Oct. 1:

- New Recruits at Recruit Training Command, Great Lakes, will be issued the double breasted all weather coat. The current single breasted all weather coat will remain optional for wear until Oct. 1, 2020, when the double breasted coat becomes mandatory. Enlisted clothing replacement allowances will be adjusted to cover the cost of this uniform change.

- The sea bag requirement for the Navy Working Uniform (NWU) Type 1 will be three sets of uniforms instead of four. Enlisted clothing replacement allowances will be adjusted to support the three sets with a replacement cycle of one set every 24 months.

- A new optional black cold weather parka (CWP) will be authorized for wear. The parka is estimated to be available for purchase in November at Navy Uniform Stores at Norfolk Naval Base and Joint Base Myer - Henderson Hall, Ft. Myer, Virginia, Newport, Rhode Island and the Navy Exchange Uniform Support Call Center. The CWP is made of a water proof and wind resistant fabric. Features of the CWP include a hidden hood, center-chest rank tab and ability to support the zip-in zip-out NWU Type



Operations Specialist 2nd Class Martin Vories compares the new flame-resistant variant coverall with standard coveralls worn by Aviation Machinist's Mate 2nd Class Mark Birzer. U.S. Navy photo by Melinda Larson.

1 fleece liner for additional cold weather protection. It will be authorized for wear with service and service dress uniforms and with civilian clothing when the rank tab is removed.

- Based on the wear of the flame resistant coverall (FRV) at sea and the NWU type 1 ashore as the standard daily working uniform, the Navy Blue Coverall will be discontinued as a Navy uniform and re-designated as a dirty work component only. Sailors will wear only the name tape on the coveralls. This policy decision is based on the required wear of the flame resistant coverall at sea and the NWU1 ashore as the standard daily working uniforms. Two sets of coveralls will continue to be issued and maintained in the sea bag.

- Unit commanding officers at sea or regional commanders will be able to grant permission to wear the Navy Black Knit Watch Cap for Sailors during cold weather conditions. The watch cap can

be worn with service dress and service uniforms, except service dress white and summer white uniforms when worn with appropriate outer wear. The cap cannot be worn with the Eisenhower jacket as it is not considered cold weather outer wear.

Additionally, effective immediately, flag officers may now wear a command-at-sea or a command ashore/project manager insignia pin they previously earned. Flag officers shall wear the pin in the post command position, and only one pin can be worn.

Some uniforms components are being discontinued, due to their infrequent wear and use by Sailors. The uniform items that will no longer be authorized for wear beginning Oct. 1, 2016, include the male officer and chief petty officer (CPO) boat cloak; the women's dress cape for officers and CPOs, tiara and beret; for men and women -- the khaki wind-breaker for officers and CPO and overshoes.

CARAT, Cont. from Page 3

"Community outreach activities continue to be a significant part of all CARAT exercises, and I am particularly proud of what our team was able to accomplish here in Thailand," said Le. "Our commitment to Thailand extends beyond our military relationship, and we were able to show that by engaging in several community service (COMSERV) projects throughout CARAT 2015."

In total, more than 400 Sailors and Marines participated in four COMSERV projects, where they spent several hours at schools and community centers throughout the area, playing games and providing entertainment to more than 500 children.

In addition to COMRELS, the shore phase of CARAT Thai-

land included eight performances from the U.S. 7th Fleet rock band "Orient Express." The band played a series of public concerts throughout the region in front of more than 10,000 people. Chief Musician Jose Acosta, who plays saxophone with the band, reflected on their performances.

"It was an honor for us to be a part of CARAT Thailand 2015," he said. "Cultural exchanges are an important part of enhancing partnerships and building friendships, and through our shared love of music, we were able to do that here in Thailand."

More than 1,000 U.S. military members participated in CARAT Thailand alongside their counterparts from the Royal Thai Armed Services. The exercise featured amphibious landings, surface warfare drills, visit, board, search and seizure demonstrations, maritime patrol and reconnais-

sance operations, coastal riverine training, diving and salvage operations, and community outreach engagements by U.S. Navy Seabees and the U.S. 7th Fleet Band.

American units participating in the exercise included the amphibious dock landing ship USS Germantown (LSD 42), a P-3C Orion, Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 5, Explosive Ordnance Disposal Mobile Unit 5, Coastal Riverine Group 1, Mobile Diving and Salvage Unit 5 and U.S. Marines assigned to the 3rd Marine Expeditionary Brigade.

Commander, Task Force 73 and Destroyer Squadron 7 staff conduct advanced planning, organize resources and directly support the execution of maritime exercises such as the bilateral CARAT series, the Naval Engagement Activity with Vietnam, and the multilateral Southeast Asia Cooperation and Training.



(above) Sailors assigned to Coastal Riverine Squadron 4 and members of the Royal Thai Navy conduct a beach insertion with riverine command boats. U.S. Navy Photo by MC1 Joshua Scott.



(above) Landing craft air cushions (LCAC), attached to Navy Beach Unit (NBU) 7, approach the shore during an amphibious assault with the Royal Thai Navy and Marines. U.S. Navy Photo by MC1 Jay Pugh.

(right) The U.S. 7th Fleet Band, Orient Express, performs at the Royal Garden Shopping Center. U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Chelsy Alamina.



(left) A U.S. Sailor enters the water to conduct a joint survey of the Thung Prong Pier. U.S. Navy photo by MC1 Gabriel Weber.



PACFLT Commander Reaffirms Close Ties with Singapore, Thanks Sailors

Story from CTF 73 Public Affairs

Adm. Scott Swift, commander of the U.S. Pacific Fleet, made his inaugural visit to the Republic of Singapore Aug. 26-28 to reaffirm the U.S. Navy's strong partnership and ties with the Singapore Armed Forces. The visit followed two days of leadership engagements in Kuala Lumpur, where Swift met with Malaysian defense officials and discussed the Navy's commitment to peace and stability in the region.

During his Singapore visit, Swift met with the Republic of Singapore Chief of Defense Major-General Perry Lim and Chief of Navy Rear Admiral Lai Chung Han, after inspecting a Guard of Honor at the Ministry of Defense headquarters.

"Our long-standing partnership with the Republic of Singapore Armed Forces reflects our shared commitment to security in Southeast Asia," said Swift. "We're grateful for our strong ties with partners like Singapore that help our Navy remain forward deployed and ready to contribute to the greater stability of the region."

Swift also made time to visit with U.S. Sailors and their families during a town hall at Com-



Adm. Scott Swift speaks to Sailors during an all-hands call as part of a visit to Navy Region Singapore. U.S. Navy photo by MC1 Jay C. Pugh.

mander, Logistics Group Western Pacific (COMLOG WESTPAC). During a question and answer session, Swift discussed the rotational deployments of littoral combat ships (LCS) to Southeast Asia, including USS Fort Worth's (LCS 3) current 16-month deployment, and the planned rotational deployment of four LCS to the region by 2018 as part of the U.S. Navy's support for the Pacific rebalance. Swift also highlighted the 21st anniversary of Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training

(CARAT), a series of bilateral exercises held annually to enhance interoperability with nine regional navies.

"CARAT remains a critical venue for increasing maritime security cooperation throughout South and Southeast Asia," said Swift. "Your hard work and critical engagement during these exercises is one of the reasons why the United States remains the partner of choice for many nations in this region."

Swift also responded to a wide range of personnel topics, including uniforms, the fiscal budget, and future manning initiatives. He emphasized the importance of the Navy's forward presence and thanked Sailors for operating forward in a critical and relevant area of the world.

"I greatly appreciate what you do; day in, and day out," said Swift. "I'm also very thankful for our families who have chosen to serve alongside our Sailors and civilian personnel far away from home and away from your extended families. Your support makes all the difference."



Adm. Scott Swift, and his wife, Trish, greet a local employee during their visit. U.S. Navy photo by Marc Ayalin.